

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1        1. A method for accepting streamed media packets sent from a  
2        content provider and converting said streamed media packets to a pulse code  
3        modulated (PCM) signal stream, said method comprising the steps of:  
4              receiving, via a first interface, a request for a specified media content  
5              available from said content provider;  
6              establishing, responsive to receipt of said request, a session with said  
7              content provider to receive said streamed media packets corresponding to said  
8              specified media content; and  
9              transcoding said streamed media packets to form a PCM signal stream  
10          corresponding to said specified media content.

1        2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2              launching said PCM signal stream onto a network operable to convey  
3              said PCM signal stream.

1        3. The method of claim 2 wherein said launching step is performed  
2          over a circuit-switched line interface:

1        4. The method of claim 3 wherein a user is able to receive said PCM  
2          signal stream from said network using a client device.

1        5. The method of claim 4 wherein said client device is a telephone.

1        6. The method of claim 4 wherein said client device is a wireless  
2          device.

1        7. The method of claim 6 wherein said wireless device is a cellular  
2          phone.

1           8.     The method of claim 2 wherein said network is a circuit-switched  
2     network.

1           9.     The method of claim 8 wherein said circuit-switched network is a  
2     wired telephony network.

1           10.    The method of claim 8 wherein said circuit-switched network is a  
2     wireless telephony network.

1           11.    The method of claim 10 wherein said wireless telephony network is  
2     a cellular network.

1           12.    The method of claim 11 wherein said cellular network is a CDMA  
2     network.

1           13.    The method of claim 11 wherein said cellular network is a TDMA  
2     network.

1           14.    The method of claim 11 wherein said cellular network is a GSM  
2     network.

1           15.    The method of claim 1 wherein said specified media content is  
2     audio content.

1           16.    The method of claim 1 wherein said specified media content is  
2     video content.

1           17. The method of claim 1 wherein said specified media content is  
2       streaming text content.

1           18. The method of claim 1 wherein said streamed media packets are IP  
2       packets.

1           19. The method of claim 1 wherein said establishing step is performed  
2       via an Internet interface.

1           20. The method of claim 19 wherein said content provider is an  
2       Internet content provider.

1           21. An apparatus for accepting streamed media packets sent from a  
2       content provider and converting said streamed media packets to a pulse code  
3       modulated (PCM) signal stream, said apparatus comprising:

4           means for receiving a request for a specified media content available from  
5       said content provider;

6           means for establishing, responsive to receipt of said request, a session  
7       with said content provider to receive said streamed media packets  
8       corresponding to said specified media content; and

9           means for transcoding said streamed media packets to form a PCM signal  
10      stream corresponding to said specified media content.

1           22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

2           means for launching said PCM signal stream onto a network operable to  
3       convey said PCM signal stream.

1           23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said launching step is  
2       performed over a circuit-switched line interface:

1           24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein a user is able to receive said  
2       PCM signal stream from said network using a client device.

1           25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said client device is a  
2       telephone.

1           26. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said client device is a wireless  
2       device.

1           27. The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said wireless device is a  
2       cellular phone.

1           28. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said network is a  
2       circuit-switched network.

1           29. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said circuit-switched network is  
2       a wired telephony network.

1           30. The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said circuit-switched network is  
2       a wireless telephony network.

1           31. The apparatus of claim 30 wherein said wireless telephony network  
2       is a cellular network.

1           32. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said cellular network is a CDMA  
2       network.

1           33. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said cellular network is a TDMA  
2       network.

1           34. The apparatus of claim 31 wherein said cellular network is a GSM  
2       network.

1           35. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said specified media content is  
2       audio content.

1           36. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said specified media content is  
2       video content.

1           37. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said specified media content is  
2       streaming text content.

1           38. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said streamed media packets  
2       are IP packets.

1           39. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said establishing step is  
2       performed via an Internet interface.

1           40. The apparatus of claim 39 wherein said content provider is an  
2       Internet content provider.

1           41. An apparatus for accepting streamed media packets sent from a  
2       Internet content provider and converting said streamed media packets to a pulse  
3       code modulated (PCM) signal stream, said apparatus comprising:

4           a circuit-switched line interface for receiving a request for a specified  
5       media content available from said Internet content provider;

6           a service control module coupled with said circuit-switched line interface,  
7        said service control module operable to solicit, accept and process said request  
8        from a client user over a circuit-switched network;

9           a session control module coupled to said service control module and  
10      coupled to an interface to the Internet, said session control module operable to  
11      establish a session with said Internet content provider for the purposes of  
12      receiving said streamed media packets from said Internet content provider; and

13           a media translation module coupled to said interface to the Internet, said  
14      media translation device operable to decode said streamed media packets and  
15      translate said decoded streamed media packets into said PCM signal stream.

1 *D*       42. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said PCM signal stream is  
2        launched over said circuit-switched line interface for delivery to said client user  
3        via said circuit-switched network.

1       43. The apparatus of claim 41 wherein said PCM signal stream is  
2        launched over said circuit-switched line interface to a plurality of client users.

1       44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said PCM signal stream is cell  
2        casted to said plurality of client users.

1       45. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2        converting said request, utilizing an audio session gateway protocol, into  
3        a format recognizable by said content provider.

1       46. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
2        cell casting said PCM signal stream over a plurality of circuit-switched  
3        connections.